Sale of Sura

613. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided that Mrit Sanjivini Sura shall be available only on a doctor's prescription;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Mrit Sanjivini Sura contains 25 to 40 per cent alcoholic content and is manufactured clandestinely;

(c) if so, the reasons for which it is being allowed to be sold on a doctor's prescription; and

(d) whether any measures are contemplated to stop the manufacture of sura with more than a permitted percentage of alcohol and impose a ban on their sale, and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) In accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act or the Rules made thereunder, no prescription is required for sale of Mrit Sanjivini Sura. The Government are aware about the misuse of Mrit Sanjivini Sura alcoholic drink. According to classics on Ayurveda, Mrit Sanjivini Sura is prepared by a distillation process after fermenting jaggery in decoction of Babul (Acacia arabica) and 43 other drugs. The recommended dosage for treatment is 20 to 60 drops. The Ayurvedic, Sidhha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board as well as the Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs Consultative Committee have considered measures to prevent the misuse of this drug on the basis of their recommendations the State Governments have been requested to take necessary punitive action under the existing laws including the Excise Acts. It has also been recommended that the Sura should have only its natural colour. Special attention is being paid to evolve pharmacopoeial standards for Mrit Sanjivini Sura by the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee. The Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad, which tested 22 market samples found alcoholic content ranging from 18 per cent to 37 per cent in these samples.

Invigilation duty in Delhi Board Senior Secondary Examination 1987

614. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clerks, laboratory attendants and even workers on daily wages were engaged on the invigilation duty in the Delhi Board Senior Secondary Examinatons in March, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) the number of persons employed on daily wages for the invigilation duty and what qualifications were prescribed for them; and

(d) the extent to which these persons performed their duties to the satisfaction of all concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Proportion between Post Offices and population

615. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ideal proportion between the number of post offices and the population;

(b) whether there is some change, recently in the said proportion; and